

REMARKS

I. Election Requirement

The Examiner has required an election between Species (1): Claims 1 – 20 and 39 – 44 and Species (2): Claims 21 – 38. (The Applicants note that in the Election Requirement dated December 21, 2006, the Examiner identified the claims for Species (2) as Claims 21 – 88. The Applicants believe this to be a typographical error and consider Species (2) to include Claims 21 – 38). Applicant elects Species (1), Claims 1 – 20 and 39 – 44 without traverse.

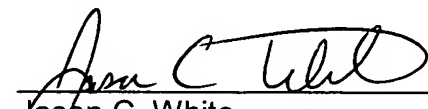
II. Status

Claims 21 – 38 have been canceled in accordance with the election. Claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 39 and 44 have been amended to correct some minor informalities and to make some small changes for clarification. New Claims 45 – 56 have been added that largely track the elected independent Claims 7 and 39 and their dependents. No new matter was added as a result of the amendments or the additions.

III. Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seek an allowance thereof. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason C. White
Registration No. 42,223
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200